

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Department of Commerce and Economic  
5 Opportunity Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois is  
6 amended by adding Section 605-418 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 605/605-418 new)

8 Sec. 605-418. Grants to qualified entities serving  
9 unemployed individuals.

10 (a) Subject to appropriation, the Department of Commerce  
11 and Economic Opportunity may establish a business ownership  
12 grant and loan program to encourage the employment of  
13 unemployed individuals. Funding for this program shall come  
14 from the General Revenue Fund. The Department shall provide  
15 grants to organizations and entities that work with unemployed  
16 individuals to facilitate the entry or reentry of those persons  
17 into the workforce. Organizations wishing to participate in the  
18 program must present an application to the Department in order  
19 to receive funding.

20 (b) Grant moneys may be used only for the following  
21 purposes:

22 (1) For the awarding of grants to organizations and  
23 entities to provide low interest loans to unemployed

1       individuals so that those individuals may start and operate  
2       their own businesses that have a positive impact on  
3       society. The maximum amount of a loan funded by a grant  
4       under this Section that an unemployed individual may  
5       receive is \$5,000.

6       (2) For the awarding of grants to entities or  
7       organizations assisting unemployed individuals, so that  
8       those individuals may develop business plans to start up  
9       their own businesses. These grants are to be used for the  
10      sole purpose of acquiring a business plan developed by a  
11      credible source. In order to receive these grants,  
12      qualified unemployed individuals must submit an  
13      application and provide 50% of the cost to develop the  
14      business plan.

15      (3) For administrative costs of the program.

16      Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect January  
17      1, 2011.